# THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff,	) ) )
V.	) ) 2:11-CR-00024-FL-1
GARY FLANNELLY,	)
Defendant.	)
	)

ARRAIGNMENT
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011
BEFORE THE HONORABLE DAVID W. DANIEL
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

### **APPEARANCES:**

### For the Government:

Eric D. Goulian, Esquire United States Attorney's Office 310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 800 Raleigh, North Carolina 27601 919.856.4530

### For the Defendant:

Richard S. Glaser, Jr., Esquire Parker Poe Three Wachovia Center 401 South Tryon Street Charlotte, North Carolina 28202 704.372.9000

Court Reporter: Rebecca L. Capps

### PROCEEDINGS

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1:38 P.M.

THE COURT: All right, good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Magistrate Judge David Daniel. We're here today in Greenville in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the purpose of holding arraignments in felony criminal cases assigned to Chief Judge Flanagan.

Now, at this time, Madam Clerk, if you would be so kind as to call the calendar, and I would ask counsel to advise me if you're ready to proceed, and if your client needs the services of an interpreter to fully and fairly participate in these proceedings.

(Clerk calls cases to be heard and counsel respond.)

THE COURT: All right, at this time, Madam Clerk, if you would swear in Miss Cruz as the Court's official interpreter.

(Whereupon, SOFIA CRUZ was duly sworn to fully and accurately interpret the proceedings.)

Thank you, Ms. Cruz. Mr. THE COURT: Guzman, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Guerrero, can you understand what I'm saying with the assistance of Ms. Cruz, the Court's official interpreter?

> MR. GUZMAN: Yes.

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MR. GONZALEZ: Yes.

MR. GUERRERO: Yes.

THE COURT: Very good. All right,

Gentlemen, you are here today in this United States

District Court because either a Bill of Indictment has

been returned against you by the citizens of this

district sitting on the Grand Jury or, in your case,

Mr. Flannelly, the United States Attorney has filed a

Criminal Information against you, but in any event,

each of you have been charged with violation of one or

more federal felony criminal laws. Now, you have

certain rights as relate to those felony charges

against you, and I am going to explain those to you

now.

As you were told at your initial appearance, you have the right to silence, which means that no one can force you to answer any questions or make any statements concerning the serious felony charges you now face. You have the right to be represented by an attorney. And you have either hired your own attorney, or the Court has appointed an attorney to provide you with an aggressive, thorough, and competent defense to the serious charges you now face.

Because each of you are facing serious felony charges, you have the right to a trial by jury on those

charges, and at that jury trial, you are presumed to be innocent. There is absolutely no burden on you to prove anything. The burden is upon the Government, through its attorneys and agents, and the Government is required to prove you guilty by competent evidence, and most importantly, the Government is required to prove you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The method for the Government to attempt to prove you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt is to call their agents and other witnesses to the witness stand, who would have to testify against you at your trials, in open court, and under oath. And after the Government questions its witnesses, you, through your attorney, will have the absolute right to question, or as we say, cross-examine, anyone that testifies against you.

Now, Gentlemen, if you plead not guilty this afternoon and your case goes to trial, you too will have the option of taking the witness stand and testifying under oath at your trial, but only if you wish to do that. It's very important that you understand that no one can force you to testify in your cases if you don't want to. And if you elect not to testify and to exercise your constitutional right not to testify, that fact cannot be held against you, and Chief Judge Flanagan is required by law to instruct the jury

accordingly.

Gentlemen, you have the right to use the subpoena power of this United States District Court, which is a power that can force witnesses that might be favorable to you in your defense to come to court and testify under oath on your behalf at your trial.

Now, Gentlemen, if you plead guilty to an offense this afternoon, whether it's in a Bill of Indictment or a Criminal Information, you'll have to waive your right to trial by jury and the other rights I have just mentioned, other than your right to counsel. Specifically, you will have to waive the right not to incriminate yourself, because I cannot accept your plea of guilty to any offense or offenses unless you admit in open court this afternoon your guilt as to that offense or offenses.

Now, by pleading guilty to a felony offense or if you're convicted by a jury and adjudicated guilty of a felony offense, you will lose certain valuable civil rights, such as the right to ever possess any kind of firearm, the right to hold public office, the right to serve on a jury; most importantly, you will lose the right to vote.

If you plead guilty this afternoon or if you are subsequently found guilty at trial, you may be

ordered to make restitution in money or services to the victims of your crime if they're identifiable, and if your offense involves fraud, you may be required to provide notice of your conviction to the victims of your crime. In certain cases you may be required to forfeit property to the United States Government.

Now, if you are not a citizen of the United States, you need to know and understand that if you plead guilty to a felony offense, or if you're subsequently found guilty at trial of a felony offense, that your immigration status will likely be adversely affected.

Now, as required by law, a special assessment of \$100.00 for each felony offense or count to which you plead guilty must be imposed against you. This \$100.00 special assessment per count or charge is in addition to or on top of any other fine or punishment that Chief Judge Flanagan might impose.

Now, Gentlemen, if you plead guilty this afternoon or if you're found guilty at trial and you are sentenced to an active term of incarceration or imprisonment, it's virtually certain that you will be given a term of supervised release to follow that term of imprisonment. Now, supervised release is similar to what you may think of as probation, and it requires that

you report to an assigned United States probation officer from time to time, and that you comply with the instructions given to you by that United States probation officer, which instructions have been given to him or her by Chief Judge Flanagan.

The terms of your supervised release would generally range anywhere from one year up to ten years, although there are certain categories or classes of cases which entail up to lifetime of supervised release. In any event, the length of your supervised release would be determined by the nature of your offense or offenses, as well as your individual criminal histories.

Now, Gentlemen, the United States Sentencing Commission has established advisory sentencing guideline ranges for all federal crimes. But by virtue of the Supreme Court case of <u>United States versus Booker</u>, Chief Judge Flanagan is no longer required to specifically follow those advisory guideline ranges when imposing sentence. She is, however, required to calculate the applicable advisory guideline sentencing range for your offense or offenses. She is then free to consider that applicable advisory guideline range as well as any other relevant factors set forth in the sentencing statute before she imposes sentence.

Although the Chief Judge is permitted to

impose a sentence which is outside of the advisory sentencing guideline range, if she does so, she is required to explain on the record at the time of sentencing her reasons or rationale for imposing such a sentence.

Gentlemen, this is very important. Under some circumstances, you and/or the Government may have the right to appeal your sentence even though you have pled guilty to an underlying crime or offense. However, if you have entered into a plea agreement with the Government, and that plea agreement contains an appeal waiver, which virtually all plea agreements do, you need to know and you need to understand that that appeal waiver may be binding upon you and that your ability to appeal whatever sentence is imposed by the Chief Judge will be severely restricted.

Gentlemen, parole has been abolished in the United States Court System, so if you receive a sentence which includes any active term of incarceration, you will not be eligible for nor will you receive any parole.

Now, Gentlemen, if you plead guilty this afternoon, or if you are found guilty at trial, the United States Probation Office will prepare a written pre-sentence report to assist the Chief Judge in your

sentencing. You will be interviewed by the Probation Office to obtain information for the pre-sentence report. It is very important that you have your attorney present with you during all interviews or contact with the Probation Office. After the Probation Office has prepared the pre-sentence report, you and your attorney will be given a copy of the pre-sentence report and be given ample opportunity to review the report and to object to any aspects of the report that you and your attorney believe are inaccurate or improper.

Now, at the time of sentencing, you and your attorney will be given the opportunity to speak to the Chief Judge and to argue for a sentence that you and your attorney believe is appropriate under the sentencing statute. You need to know that Chief Judge Flanagan does not allow character witnesses to testify at her sentencing hearings, but she is happy to receive from your attorney written sentencing memoranda and character letters, as long as those are provided to her chambers at least one week prior to your scheduled sentencing.

Now, sentencings from this afternoon's arraignments will be held no sooner than ninety days from today's date, and will likely be held in New Bern,

(Whereupon, **GARY FLANNELLY** was duly sworn and testified as follows:)

EXAMINATION 1:55 P.M.

BY THE COURT:

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### VERBATIM REPORTING SERVICE

Very good. Have you ever been treated for

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in these matters.

### BY THE COURT:

- Q Now, Mr. Flannelly, have you had the opportunity to discuss your case and your plea with Mr. Glaser, your attorney?
  - A Yes, your Honor.
- Q Are you -- has Mr. Glaser answered all of your questions concerning your case and your plea?
  - A Yes, your Honor.
- Q Are you satisfied with his representation of you?
  - A Absolutely, your Honor.
- Q Very good. Did you hear and understand my explanation of your rights this afternoon, including how you might be sentenced by the Chief Judge?
  - A Yes, your Honor.
- Q Mr. Flannelly, you're here on a Criminal Information, and that Criminal Information is rather brief, so I am going to read that out loud. The United States has filed a Criminal Information against you, dated June 7 of 2011, charging that on or about June 8 of 2005, June 20, 2005, August 16, 2005, here in the Eastern District of North Carolina, that you, Mr. Flannelly, did knowingly make false statements with respect to information required by Chapter 44 of Title 18, to be kept in the records of a federally licensed

firearms dealer, specifically, false statements as to the ownership of two Glock 19 handguns and one Glock 17 handgun, which would be a violation of Title 18, United States Code Section 924(a)1(A). Do you understand that charge against you in the Criminal Information?

A Yes, I do, your Honor.

Now, the maximum statutory punishment you might receive were you to plead guilty or be found guilty of that charge would be up to five years' imprisonment; up to a \$250,000.00 fine, or both such fine and imprisonment; up to three years of supervised release to follow any imprisonment, with the possibility of up to two additional years' imprisonment if your supervised release were to be revoked; the required \$100.00 special assessment; and restitution to the extent restitution is deemed applicable. Do you understand those maximum statutory punishments that you might receive?

A Yes, your Honor.

Q Now, Mr. Flannelly, the charges pending against you have been brought by the filing of a Criminal Information by the United States Attorney, and because you have been charged with a felony in that Criminal Information, you have a constitutional right to require that the Government obtain a true Bill of

Indictment against you from the Grand Jury of this district. Now, you can waive that right to Indictment by the Grand Jury and consent to proceeding forward based on a Criminal Information of the United States Attorney, if you so desire.

Mr. Flannelly, this is very important. If you do not waive your constitutional right to Indictment, then the proceeding against you today can go no further. In fact, based on my understanding of the posture of this case, you're free to walk out the door. But in that event, the Government would, likewise, be free to present its case to the Grand Jury and seek to have the Grand Jury return a true Bill of Indictment against you.

Now, the Grand Jury is composed of at least sixteen, but not more than twenty-three persons, and at least twelve of those grand jurors, were they presented with your case, would have to find probable cause and believe that you committed the offense with which you're charged before they could return a true Bill of Indictment.

Now, Mr. Flannelly, if the Government was forced to present its case to the Grand Jury, the Grand Jury might, or it might not, return a true Bill of Indictment against you. No one can say for sure what the Grand Jury would do were they presented with your

I would

like to add, and Mr. Goulian and I discussed this, the

-- if one reads the timing in the information of the particular offense, the statute of limitations is actually run, as well, but we are waiving that, as well, today, in addition to waiving the right to -- for indictment.

THE COURT: All right, thank you.

MR. GLASER: Yes, sir.

BY THE COURT:

- Q All right. Now, Mr. Flannelly, I have in my hands a document entitled, Waiver of Indictment, that appears to be signed by you, Mr. Glaser -- and Mr. Glaser, your attorney, dated today's date. Is that your knowing and voluntary decision, to waive your constitutional right to indictment?
  - A Yes, your Honor.
- Q All right. The Court finds that your Waiver of Indictment is knowingly and voluntarily made and will accept the same, and will proceed on to arraignment based on a Criminal Information.

Now, Mr. Flannelly, would you like for me to read the charge against -- against you, again, or do you understand the charge?

- A I understand, your Honor.
- Q And you understand the maximum punishments that you might receive, as I previously stated?

signed it?

A I do, your Honor.

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Q All right. I've been handed a document

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entitled, Memorandum of Plea Agreement, Mr. Glaser.

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February, 2010; signed by you, Mr. Glaser, your

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rebruary, 2010, Signed by you, Fir. Glaser, your

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attorney, and John Bowler, the Assistant U.S. Attorney

This plea agreement appears to be dated the 5th day of

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handling your case. And in that plea agreement, among

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other things, it appears you've agreed to plead guilty

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to that one count Criminal Information.

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opportunity to thoroughly read and review this plea

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agreement with Mr. Glaser, your attorney, before you

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A I did, your Honor.

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Q After you read and reviewed the plea agreement

I ask you, Mr. Flannelly, did you have the

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with Mr. Glaser, did you, or do you today, understand

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the terms, language, words, and meaning of everything in

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A Yes, your Honor.

this plea agreement?

plea agreement?

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Q Do you understand your obligations under the

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A I do, your Honor.

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Q Very good. Has anyone promised you anything

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to get you to plead guilty to the Criminal Information,

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that is not written down in this plea agreement?

Α No, your Honor.

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0 Has anyone threatened you or tried to force you in any way to get you to plead quilty to the Criminal Information?

Α No, your Honor.

And do you understand that if you plead guilty to the charge against you in the Criminal Information, that that charge is a felony, and that you will lose your valuable civil rights, including the right to vote. Do you understand that?

Α Yes, your Honor.

Very importantly, do you understand that if you plead guilty today, that you can't come back later and ask, one, to be indicted; two, to plead not guilty; or three, for a trial? Do you understand that?

Α I understand, your Honor.

You're stuck with your "guilty" plea? discuss with Mr. Glaser, and do you understand that Paragraph 2(c), on the bottom of the first page, is the appeal waiver that I discussed during the advice of rights, which makes it very difficult for you to appeal whatever sentence is imposed by the Chief Judge? you discuss that with Mr. Glaser?

Yes, your Honor, I understand. Α

And you understand that? Did you discuss with

Mr. Glaser, and do you understand that any sentencing recommendations in the plea agreement, including those in paragraph 5, on pages 5 and 6, are just that, recommendations, and that Chief Judge Flanagan is free to establish whatever advisory guideline range she believes to be correct and to impose whatever sentence she believes to be just and proper, irrespective of any agreement you have the United States Attorney? In other words, she's not bound by those recommendations of the plea agreement. Do you understand that?

- A I understand, your Honor.
- Q Have you answered all of my questions truthfully, Mr. Fletcher (sic)?
  - A Yes, your Honor.

Q I'm sorry; Mr. Flannelly.

MR. GLASER: I have, too, your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Glaser.

BY THE COURT:

- Q Mr. Flannelly, would you like any more time to think about your plea or discuss any aspect of your case or plea? If you have any questions, now is the time to talk with Mr. Glaser.
  - A No, your Honor.
- Q Are you prepared to enter a plea at this time, Mr. Flannelly?

A Yes, your Honor.

Q Mr. Flannelly, how do you plead to the one-count Criminal Information, charging you with making false statements as to records required to be kept by a licensed firearms dealer, a violation of 18 United States Code Section 924(a)(1)(A)? How do you plead to that charge?

A Guilty, your Honor.

Q Mr. Flannelly, did you as charged in the one-count Indictment, on or about June 8 of 2005, in the Eastern District of North Carolina, knowingly make a false statement with respect to information required by Chapter 44 of Title 18, to be kept by federally licensed firearms dealers, that is, that you falsely represented yourself to be the purchaser of a Glock 19 handgun, when in fact, as you well knew, you were not the purchaser of that firearm. Did you do those things?

- A I did, your Honor.
- Q And you're sure about that?
- A Absolutely, your Honor.
- Q All right. Thank you. Please be seated.

THE COURT: All right, Mr. Goulian, I'll be glad to hear from you as to what the United States could likely prove were Mr. Flannelly's case to go to trial.

MR. GOULIAN: Yes, your Honor. The

Government's evidence would show Mr. Flannelly is the Vice President of Operations for Blackwater Security Company, based in Moyock, in the Eastern District of North Carolina and now known as Xe Services. In March of 2005, the King of Jordan visited Blackwater, and during that visit, he received a gift of -- he and his entourage received a gift of five firearms from Blackwater. Subsequently, on June 8, 2005, and on August 16, 2005, Mr. Flannelly signed an ATF Form 4473, stating that he was the purchaser, or transferee, of two Glock 19 nine-millimeter pistols, when in fact, as he knew, those two pistols had previously been given to the King of Jordan and his entourage.

Also, on June 20, 2005, Mr. Flannelly signed an ATF Form 4473 on behalf of Blackwater, as the transferer of a Glock 17 nine-millimeter pistol, which falsely stated that another employee of Blackwater, Ron Slezak, was the purchaser of that firearm, and again, at that time Mr. Flannelly knew that that particular firearm had been gifted to the King of Jordan.

THE COURT: Thank you. All right, Mr. Flannelly, if you would, please, rise, and Mr. Glaser.

The Court, satisfied with the responses given during this hearing, makes the following findings on the record:

It's the finding of this Court in the case of United States of America versus Gary Flannelly, that the Defendant, Mr. Flannelly, is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea, and his plea of guilty is knowingly and voluntarily made, and is supported by an independent factual basis containing each of the essential elements of the charged offense. Mr. Flannelly, your plea is, therefore, accepted, and you are adjudicated guilty of the one-count Criminal Information against you.

Now, Mr. Flannelly, I have conditionally approved the Memorandum of Plea Agreement between you, Mr. Glaser, and the Government. You will be notified in writing of the time, date, and place of your sentencing. I anticipate that will occur in New Bern no sooner than ninety days from today's date, but you will get plenty of advance notice of that.

Mr. Glaser, to the extent you have already not done so, if you would contact the United States

Probation Office to commence preparation of Mr.

Flannelly's pre-sentence report, that will prevent any prejudicial delay in Mr. Flannelly's sentencing.

Now I know, Mr. Flannelly, this is your first appearance in the United States District Court. As such, the issue of your pre-sentence release is ripe.

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1	Mr. Goulian, what is the Government's position
2	with regard that?
3	MR. GOULIAN: Your Honor, the Government
4	recommends that Mr. Flannelly be released with standard
5	conditions. As far as a travel condition, the
6	Government just requests that no foreign travel,
7	surrender of passport.
8	THE COURT: Okay. Any bond requested?
9	MR. GOULIAN: No, your Honor.
10	THE COURT: Okay. All right. Please have
11	a seat, Mr. Flannelly, Mr. Glaser. Any contact
12	restrictions, Mr. Goulian?
13	MR. GOULIAN: No, your Honor.
14	THE COURT: All right. Any monitoring? I
15	don't believe that seems to be appropriate, but I'll
16	ask.
17	Mr. GOULIAN: No, your Honor.
18	THE COURT: All right, Mr. Glaser Mr.
19	Glaser and Mr. Flannelly, it is my intent to release you
20	pending sentencing on the following conditions:
21	That you promise to appear in court as
22	required, and surrender for service of any sentence that
23	might eventually be imposed by the Chief Judge; that you
24	report to your probation officer as directed.

Do you have a U.S. Passport? I believe you

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do.

MR. FLANNELLY: I do, your Honor. I don't have it with me, but I do have one.

THE COURT: If you would surrender that within twenty-four hours to the United States Probation Office.

Make no efforts to obtain any passport or documentation that would allow you to leave the continental United States. In fact, I'm restricting your travel to the continental United States unless you obtain the prior permission of your supervised -- supervising probation officer.

I direct that you refrain from possessing any firearms, destructive devices, or dangerous weapons. If you have any firearm -- do you have any firearms in your possession now?

MR. FLANNELLY: Not anymore, your Honor, no.

THE COURT: Okay. To the extent you find that you do, if you would immediately transfer those to a lawful holder to be kept pending your sentencing. You would notify Mr. Glaser of that, and Mr. Glaser inform the Probation Office of that. It is important that you don't possess any firearms during this interim time.

Refrain from excessive use of alcohol or

refrain from any use of an illegal drug or narcotic substance; submit to drug testing as deemed advisable by your probation officer; participate in any inpatient or outpatient substance abuse therapy deemed advisable by your probation officer. There's no indication of that, but those are standard conditions I impose in every case.

Immediately notify your probation officer of any kind contact with law enforcement, including even a routine traffic stop.

I am directing, as I do in all cases, that you submit to a warrantless search by your probation officer, or other law enforcement officers, with the prior approval of the supervising probation officer, of your person, property and abode, including your residence, as well as any vehicle in which you are the driver or passenger, to determine compliance with the conditions of your release.

Mr. Goulian, does the Government seek any further conditions?

MR. GOULIAN: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: And, again, the Government does not request any appearance bond; is that correct?

MR. GOULIAN: That's correct, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right, Mr. Glaser, do any

of those conditions cause Mr. Flannelly any major heartburn?

MR. GOULIAN: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. I'm going to hand these down for your review and Mr. Flannelly's signature.

MR. GLASER: May I approach, your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, please, Mr. Glaser.

MR. GLASER: Thank you.

THE COURT: All right, Mr. Flannelly, do you understand and agree to abide by each and every one of those conditions?

MR. FLANNELLY: I do, your Honor.

questions concerning those conditions, obviously,
contact Mr. Glaser, your attorney. As I like to tell
people, there's very little -- actually, I'll probably
tell you, there's no forgiveness here. There is
permission. So, if anything comes up that you have a
question about, you're well advised to contact Mr.
Glaser or your supervising probation officer, because if
you come back in front of me, my policy is any
violations, regardless of the nature of the offense, and
the Government's position, any violation will result in
you being detained pending sentencing, and so just use

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1	your good common sense on that.
2	MR. FLANNELLY: I understand, your Honor.
3	THE COURT: All right, Mr. Glaser, is there
4	anything further on behalf of Mr. Flannelly today?
5	MR. GLASER: No, your Honor.
6	THE COURT: Mr. Goulian, on behalf of the
7	United States?
8	MR. GOULIAN: No, your Honor.
9	THE COURT: All right, Mr. Flannelly, that
10	will conclude your arraignment. The Court has accepted
11	your "guilty" plea to the one-count Criminal
12	Information. Order that you be released on the
13	conditions set by the Court pending sentencing in front
14	of the Chief Judge, after processing by the Marshal
15	Service and Probation Office. Good luck to you, sir.
16	MR. FLANNELLY: Thank you, your Honor.
17	(The proceedings were concluded at 2:16 p.m.)
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19	END OF TRANSCRIPT
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### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings taken at the criminal session of United States District Court is a true and accurate transcription of the proceedings taken and transcribed by me.

This is the 6th day of December, 2011.

Reperso S. Cappe

Rebecca L. Capps